

CLAIMS

*Sub A1* 1. A method of generating a file suitable for programming a programmable logic device, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for said programmable logic device;

(B) storing said programming item in a programming field of said file in response to generating; and

(C) storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein storing is storing a frequency parameter in said non-programming field.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of second storing one of said parameters in a second non-programming field of said file.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said second storing is storing a frequency parameter in said second non-programming field.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an error detection item; and

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said error detection item is a cyclic redundancy check checksum.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said cyclic redundancy check checksum is configured to detect a bit swap within said file.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing an identification item configured to identify said programmable logic device in a second non-programming field of said file.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of bracketing said non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an error detection item;

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file;

storing another of said parameters in a third non-programming field of said file;

storing an identification item in a fourth non-programming field of said file; and

bracketing a combination of said non-programming field, said second non-programming field, said third non-programming field, and said fourth non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

11. A storage medium for use in a computer to generate a file suitable for programming a programmable logic device, the storage medium recording a computer program that is readable and executable by the computer, the computer program comprising:

5 comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for said programmable logic device;

(B) storing said programming item in a programming field of said file in response to generating; and

(C) storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.

12. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein storing is storing a frequency parameter in said non-programming field.

13. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of second storing one of said parameters in a second non-programming field of said file.

14. The storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said second storing is storing a frequency parameter in said second non-programming field.

15. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the steps of:

generating an error detection item; and

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file.

16. The storage medium according to claim 15, wherein said error detection item is a cyclic redundancy check checksum.

17. The storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said cyclic redundancy check checksum is configured to detect a bit swap within said file.

18. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of storing an identification item configured to identify said programmable logic device in a second non-programming field of said file.

19. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of bracketing said non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

20. A system comprising:

means for generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for a programmable logic device;

means for storing said programming item in a programming field of a file suitable for programming said programmable logic device; and

means for storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.